

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine which includes
a display including a plurality of display positions for displaying combinations of symbols;

a controller ~~for controlling~~ that controls operation of the machine, ~~the controller including a processor for processing~~ processes data, selects outcomes of games played on the machine, and causes the display to display in the display positions certain symbols from a set of symbols to represent the selected outcomes, the gaming machine being adapted to play a base game in which a player places a base bet to purchase at least one outcome selected for display by the controller and wherein, if a particular winning outcome occurs, the machine awards a prize, the prize being determined in accordance with a pay table which determines a prize for each winning outcome and displaying selected data on the display; and

a selector ~~operable by a player of the machine for enabling the player to select on payment of an additional bet prior to commencement of the base game wherein, when the selector is operated, the controller adds~~ at least one additional feature which can be added to a to the base game wherein the at least one additional feature comprises at least one feature selected from the group consisting of:

a player favorable variation in the outcomes available for the controller to select and

eligibility for the award of a one or more feature games in the event of a feature game trigger occurring during play of the base game played on the machine such that a base bet provides eligibility for the base game alone and at least one other bet provides eligibility for the base game enhanced with eligibility for the at least one additional feature, wherein the eligibility for the at least one additional feature is available for multiple values of the base bet.

2. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine of claim 1 in which the additional bet ~~at least one other bet staked by the player~~ is a multiple of the base bet wagered by the player.

3. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of claim 2 in which different multiples of the base bet purchase different additional features.

4. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of Claim 1 in which the selector comprises a plurality of selectors operable by the player to select the at least one additional feature before making the base bet.

5. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine of Claim 1 in which the ~~at least one other additional bet staked~~ provides eligibility to a benefit provided by ~~that the additional~~ feature, there being no guarantee that the additional feature will ~~eventuate~~ result in the award of a prize merely by having staked the ~~at least one other~~ additional bet.

6. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine of Claim 1 in which the additional feature further comprises eligibility for the award of one or more feature games in the event of a feature game trigger occurring inn the base game and wherein the trigger event comprises an event that is independent is triggered independently of the outcomes selected for the base game.

7. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of Claim 1 in which the selector enables a player to select a range of additional features to enable the player to tailor the game to the player's requirements.

8. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine of claim 7 in which certain of the additional features ~~are no cost features~~ comprise a series of game events purchased by the additional bet, while other features comprise a series of game events that require the staking of at least one ~~other~~ further bet by the player.

9. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of Claim 1, wherein the machine comprises a plurality of games and wherein the selector enables the player to select one of the plurality of games as the base game.

10. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of Claim 1 in which the selector includes dedicated buttons on a keypad of the controller.

11. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of Claim 1 in which the selector includes touch sensors of a touch screen of the display.

12. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine which includes
a display including a plurality of display positions for displaying combinations of symbols;

a controller for controlling operation of the machine, the controller including a processor for processing data and displaying selected data on the display; and

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a selector operable by a player of the machine for enabling the player to select at least one additional feature which can be added to a base game played on the machine such that a base bet provides eligibility for the base game alone and additional credit staked provides eligibility for the base game enhanced with eligibility for to be awarded the at least one additional feature, wherein whether the additional feature is awarded is determined by the controller based on a play of the base game where the additional credit has been staked and wherein the additional credit being staked by the player in order to be eligible for the at least one additional feature being comprises a fixed amount multiplied by a bet wagered per line or per draw.

13. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine of Claim 12 wherein the at least one additional feature which can be added to the base game comprises a plurality of additional features and wherein the selector includes a plurality of selectors operable by the player to select ~~the one or more additional features~~ required before making the base bet.

14. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of Claim 12 in which the additional credit staked provides eligibility to a benefit provided by that feature, there being no guarantee that the feature will eventuate merely by having staked the additional credit.

15. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of Claim 12, wherein the additional feature is triggered independently of the base game.

16. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of Claim 12, wherein the selector enables a player to select a range of additional features to enable the player to tailor the game to the player's requirements.

17. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine of Claim 16 in which certain of the additional features ~~are no cost features while other features~~ require the staking of further additional credit by the player, which is in addition to the additional credit staked to provide eligibility for the enhanced base game.

18. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of Claim 12, wherein the machine comprises a plurality of games and wherein the selector is adapted to enable the player to select one of the plurality of games as the base game.

19. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of Claim 12, wherein the selector includes dedicated buttons on a keypad of the control means.

20. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of Claim 12, in which the selector includes touch sensors of a touch screen of the display.

21. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine which includes
a display including a plurality of display positions for displaying combinations of symbols;

a controller for controlling operation of the machine, the controller including a processor for processing data and displaying selected data on the display; and

a plurality of selectors operable by a player of the machine for enabling the player, prior to making a base bet, to select a range of additional features to be added to a base game played on the machine to enable the player to tailor the game to the player's requirements, a first selection providing eligibility for the base game alone and at least one other selection providing eligibility for the base game enhanced with eligibility ~~for~~ to be awarded from play of the base game at least one of the additional features, wherein the eligibility for the at least one additional feature is not dependent on a single value of the base bet.

22. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of Claim 1, wherein the particular value of the base bet comprises a maximum allowed value of the base bet.

23. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine which includes
a display including a plurality of display positions for displaying combinations of symbols;

a controller for controlling operation of the machine, the controller including a processor for processing data and displaying selected data on the display, the gaming machine being arranged to play a game in which a player stakes a wager on the outcome of the game and, if a predetermined winning event occurs, the machine awards a prize, the game playable on the machine comprising a base game having a multiplicity of possible outcomes, at least one of the possible outcomes being a feature outcome, the feature outcome resulting in the award of a feature and only being available to be awarded when a feature selecting wager has been staked on the base game, and wherein the controller determines whether a said feature outcome has occurred using different

evaluation criteria than criteria used to determine whether the other outcomes in the base game are winning outcomes; and

a selector operable by the player to enable the player to stake the feature selecting wager and thereby be eligible to be awarded the feature in the event of a feature outcome occurring in the base game.

Please add the following new Claims.

24. (New) The gaming machine of claim 23, wherein the base game is a spinning reel game comprising a plurality of spinning reels and in which symbols spun up on the reels are evaluated from left to right across the reels for a winning combination and wherein the evaluation criteria for the feature outcome is a predefined winning combination occurring from right to left across the reels.

25. (New) The gaming machine of claim 23, wherein the evaluation criteria for the feature outcome comprises substituting at least one symbol in the base game for other symbols and evaluating whether the symbol so substituted defines a winning combination, wherein said at least one symbol is not substituted for other symbols unless the feature selecting wager has been staked.

26. (New) The gaming machine of claim 23, wherein the evaluation criteria for the feature outcome comprises evaluating for at least one of:

the occurrence of at least one symbol in the base game that is not used to define any winning outcome other than the feature outcome; and

the occurrence of at least one symbol in a manner that is not used to define any winning outcome other than the feature outcome.

27. (New) The gaming machine of claim 26, wherein the base game is a spinning reel game comprising a plurality of spinning reels and in which symbols spun up on the reels are evaluated for a winning combination and wherein the evaluation criteria for the feature outcome comprises evaluating for the presence of a predetermined number of a certain symbol as a scatter symbol.

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28. (New) The gaming machine of claim 27, wherein the feature is a series of games for which the player does not have to make any additional wager other than feature selecting wager and game wager.

29. (New) The gaming machine of claim 1, wherein, when the selector is operated, the controller adds both a player favorable variation in the set of symbols from which the controller selects symbols for display, and eligibility for the award of one or more feature games in the event of a feature game trigger occurring in the base game.

30. (New) A gaming machine which includes
a display including a plurality of display positions for displaying combinations of symbols;

a controller that controls operation of the gaming machine, processes data, selects outcomes of games played on the machine, and causes the display to display in the display positions certain symbols from a set of symbols to represent the selected outcomes, the gaming machine being adapted to play a base game in which a player places a base bet to purchase at least one outcome selected for display by the controller, and if a particular winning outcome occurs the machine awards the player a prize, the prize being determined in accordance with a pay table which determines a prize for each winning outcome; and

a selector operable on payment of an additional bet by a player of the machine prior to the commencement of a base game,

wherein when the selector is operated, the controller adds a player favorable variation in the outcomes available for the controller to select and eligibility for the award of one or more feature games in the event of a feature game trigger occurring during play of the base game.

31. (New) The gaming machine of claim 30, wherein the eligibility for the award of a feature game added by the controller occurs as a result of the player favorable variation in the outcomes available for the controller to select.

32. (New) The gaming machine of claim 31, wherein the player favorable variation in the outcomes available for the controller to select comprises making an outcome a feature game trigger that was not a feature game trigger before the player favorable variation.

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33. (New) The gaming machine of claim 31, wherein the outcome that is made a feature game trigger is the occurrence of an outcome that is represented by the occurrence of at least one particular symbol in the display positions in the display.